



NEWS RELEASE

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**Contact: Richard Travis
Public Information Officer
(602) 542-9656
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Supreme Court Announces New Chief Justice



The Arizona Supreme Court announced today that Vice Chief Justice Charles E. Jones (left), age 66, has been elected by his fellow Supreme Court Justices to become the next Chief Justice of the Arizona Supreme Court. (Arizona Constitution, Article 6, Section 3). Vice Chief Justice Jones' term as Chief Justice will begin in January of 2002, when the term of current Chief Justice Thomas Zlaket expires.

The Court also announced that Justice Ruth V. McGregor (right) was elected to become the next Vice Chief Justice of the Court. This will be the second time a woman has held the position. The last female to serve as Vice Chief Justice was Justice Lorna Lockwood, who also served later as Chief Justice and was a member of the Arizona Supreme Court from 1961 to 1975.



Vice Chief Justice Jones was appointed to the Arizona Supreme Court in 1996 by Governor J. Fife Symington. He received his undergraduate degree from Brigham Young University in 1959, and his law degree from Stanford Law School in 1962. After graduating from law school, he served as law clerk to Judge Richard H. Chambers, then the Chief Judge of the United States Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit. In 1963, Vice Chief Justice Jones joined the firm of Jennings, Strouss & Salmon, where he worked until his appointment to the Arizona Supreme Court in 1996. He became a partner at the firm and served as the Chairman of the firm's labor and employment department.

In addition to his labor and employment practice, the Vice Chief Justice was involved in corporate, commercial, and real estate matters. He practiced in both state and federal courts, and before state and federal administrative agencies. His advocacy skills and ethical standards have been recognized by numerous legal groups. He is the first recipient of the University of Arizona "Feuerstein Award" for Ethics in the Law of Industrial Relations, was listed in *The Best Lawyers in America* from 1983 through 1996, and received the Alumni Distinguished Service Award from Brigham Young University.

Justice McGregor was appointed to the Supreme Court in 1998 by Governor Jane D. Hull. Justice McGregor holds a B.A. and an M.A. from the University of Iowa. She graduated from Arizona State University College of Law, and recently earned a LL.M. from the University of Virginia.

After graduating from ASU's College of Law, Justice McGregor joined the law firm of Fennemore Craig in 1974. She left the firm in 1981 to serve as law clerk to United States Supreme Court Justice Sandra Day O'Connor. After completing her clerkship, she returned to Phoenix and Fennemore Craig. Justice McGregor had a diverse private practice that included civil trial, administrative and appellate work in state and federal courts and before state and federal agencies. She also held several managerial positions, including terms as the firm's first female hiring partner and as a member of its management committee.

Justice McGregor left private practice in 1989 when she was appointed to the Arizona Court of Appeals. She served as Vice Chief Judge for the Court of Appeals from 1993 to 1995, and then as Chief Judge from 1995 to 1997. During her law career, Justice McGregor has been associated with numerous organizations in the field. She has been a part of the Arizona Judges' Association, including a term as president, a member of the National Association of Women Judges, and a Founding Fellow of the Arizona Bar Foundation.

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